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U. S. Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. War Food Administration

A Agreement for Movement of Grain Harvesting Labor and Machinery Between the United States and Canada

On April 10, 1942, the White House announced an arrangement with Canada which included provisions for facilitating passage across the International boundary of seasonal agricultural labor and farm machinery. This Department, the Immigration Service, the Customs Service, the Department of State, the War Manpower Commission and the Canadian Government are cooperating to implement those provisions with respect to grain harvesting labor and machinery.

In order to make the implementation effective, it has been agreed that the State USDA War Board Chairman for North Dakota and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan shall constitute the agencies through which requests for assistance, and notifications of opportunities for employment will be cleared between the two countries. The State War Board Chairman in the other States named above shall submit to the State War Board Chairman for North Dakota for handling such requests and notifications originating within their respective States. Each application for harvesting equipment to be accompanied by a crew of foreign workers must indicate the level of compensation in wages and must indicate whether housing, meals, etc., will be furnished. All commitments to hire foreign labor under this arrangement shall be made at the rate of compensation prevailing for the type of work performed in the locality concerned.

The working unit contemplated in this plan is a combine, or such other machinery as may be necessary for harvesting and threshing grain, accompanied by the owner or lessee and as many helpers as may be requested by the initial employer in the host country. It should be emphasized that no labor shall pass in either direction except as part of such a harvesting unit as that just described, except under the terms of such subsequent arrangements as may be made between the two Governments.

No working unit shall cross the International boundary unless at least one employer in the host country is recorded with that country's immigration authorities. It is anticipated that working units may be engaged by more than one employer before entering the host country. No working unit, however, may accept employment while in the host country in addition to that originally arranged for unless such employment is secured through the agency operating the farm machinery placement service of the host country. In the United States that agency is the State USDA War Board; in Canada it is the Employment Service of Canada.

Prior to entering the host country, each harvesting unit shall be certified to the immigration authorities of the host country as participating in an arrangement to exchange harvesting facilities. In Canada the certifying officers shall be the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Province of Saskatchewan. In the United States the State USDA War Board Chairman for North Dakota shall be the certifying officer.

Members of certified crews entering the United States from Canada will be issued a card (Form I-100) by the United States Immigration Service. Crew members may leave and reenter the United States at will at any time prior to December 31, 1943 on the original form when coming to continue employment with harvesting units. Members of the certified crews entering Canada will be given similar clearance by immigration authorities and have similar freedom of movement up to the same date.

It is assumed that in most cases each group and the necessary equipment will be transported or towed by truck. It is also possible that the equipment may be tractor-drawn and that the crew will travel by auto. Admission to either country of either type of vehicle has been arranged for, as described hereunder.

It is assumed that harvest equipment will not enter either country without complete sets of tires for trucks, automobiles, tractors, and combines. However, in the event replacement tires are needed while in the host country it is agreed that the farm machinery placement agencies of the host country will assist the harvesting crew to secure the necessary replacements through the procedures established for securing tires for domestic users.

Persons eligible for entry into Canada from the United States under this arrangement are:

(1) United States citizens other than citizens of Japanese ancestry.

(2) Aliens other than citizens of an enemy country.
If persons other than United States citizens enter Canada, they must be able to provide evidence that they will be permitted to re-enter the United States. Canada requires no passports or visas for United States citizens, but it will be necessary for naturalized United States citizens to carry evidence of naturalization.

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Persons eligible for entry from Canada under this arrangement are:

- (1) Citizens of Canada or British subjects domiciled in that country except those who are natives of an enemy country.
- (2) Non-enemy aliens domiciled in Canada.

Passports and visas will be waived to admit workers under this arrangement.

Both countries agree that documentation in the proposed arrangement should be no more extensive than is absolutely necessary. It is also agreed that the attached Form A, or some other form capable of doing the work required, shall be used by both countries for original certification of workers to the immigration authorities of the host country. Form B is required to permit workers from the United States to convert Canadian dollars into United States dollars while in Canada.

In the following detailed instruction, the steps are described for the documenting of a party proceeding from the United States to Canada. It is anticipated that a similar procedure will apply to persons entering the United States from Canada, except that there is no reason for using the foreign exchange Form B.

(1) The State USDA War Board Chairman for any of the States named above will fill out Form A in quintuplicate to cover the working party described therein. Each State War Board Chairman executing Form A will assign consecutive numbers to the working parties certified out of that office. One copy of Form A shall be given to the owner or lessee of the machinery, to be retained by him for identification of that party at the port of entry and in dealing with local ration boards. The original and 2 copies shall be sent to the State War Board Chairman for North Dakota, who will certify the original to the Canadian Immigration Officer at the port of entry nearest the first point of employment in Canada. The Chairman for North Dakota also will forward one copy to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Saskatchewan (the corresponding copy of Form A executed in Canada shall be sent to the USDA State War Board Chairman for North Dakota for use in securing ODT Certificates of War Necessity for gasoline to operate Canadian trucks in the United States). No party shall cross the border until each member thereof has been checked against the names listed on the original Form A by the Canadian immigration officer.

The issuing State War Board Chairman will record on Form A the initial Canadian employer engaging the working party before its departure

from the United States. The members of each party will sign in the presence of the Canadian immigration officer when crossing into Canada, both the original of Form A and the copy carried by the owner or lessee and will at that time receive documentation similar to the United States Form I-100. This arrangement will be effective at all ports of entry between Piney, Manitoba (opposite Pine Creek, Minnesota) and Del Bonita, Alberta (opposite Del Bonita, Montana) both points included.

(2) Prepare one copy of Form B for each certified worker. This form is required by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control officials for use by harvest workers when converting their Canadian earning into United States dollars in Canada rather than in the United States, thus obtaining a more favorable rate of exchange. It will serve also to identify the worker to the Immigration Service of Canada.

Harvesting machinery and attendant motor trucks or automobiles moving from the United States to Canada under this scheme will be admitted into Canada without payment of duty or posting of bond. Similar treatment will be accorded Canadian equipment entering the United States. On this subject, a letter dated July 16, 1942 from the United States Commissioner of Customs contained the following statement:

"Canadian trucks engaged in hauling the harvesting machinery and crews into the United States may, after reporting to customs and making entry, proceed, without the payment of duty, to the point in the United States at which the machinery and crews are to be employed. Such trucks may not, however, be used to transport the equipment or members of the crews between points in the United States. Upon completion of the harvesting work, the Canadian trucks may, without the payment of duty, be employed to take the equipment and crew out of the United States. If the trucks were returned to Canada after the unloading of the machinery and crew members, the drivers must report to customs when they return to the United States to pick up the machinery and crew members, although no duty will be due on the trucks.

"If, at the time of the entry of the harvesting equipment, the crew is transported into the United States by automobile, it may also proceed to its destination in the United States, without the payment of duty, but may not transport the crew members between points in the United States."

"The harvesting machinery is entitled to entry free of duty under the provisions of paragraph 1604 of the Tariff Act of 1930."

Provisions will be made for visiting harvest crews to secure at or near ports of entry gasoline coupons in sufficient number to accomplish the purpose of the visit. Provision also will be made for the purchase of tires when necessary, and for issuing food ration books. In the United States all these arrangements will be handled by the State or County War Board Chairman, who will designate representatives with which final arrangements can be made at or near the port of entry by the harvesting crew. The name and address of the War Board representative will be supplied to the harvesting crew when the arrangements are made for the original job.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
USDA War Board
(State of origin)

Date

To the Immigration Officer for the Dominion of Canada at _____

Grain Harvesting Party No. 1

Sir:

You are hereby informed that the following persons are proceeding to Canada as one party to work as a grain harvesting crew. They shall not be admitted into Canada unless accompanied by machinery adequate for such work, and by the owner or lessee of such machinery.

(Signature of the War Board Chairman)

Approved: _____, State of origin

(Date)

(Signature of War Board Chairman of
North Dakota)

..:

A. Owner or lessee of harvesting machinery.

1. Name
2. Address
3. Place of birth
4. Citizenship
5. Signature

Entering Canada at _____ Date _____

B. Description of equipment necessary for gas ration and tire purchase.

1. Truck(s) ..

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Make | a. Make |
| b. Body type | b. Body type |
| c. Year made | c. Year made |
| d. Capacity | d. Capacity |
| e. Registration number | e. Registration number |

2. Number of passenger cars in party _____

3. Number of items of harvest equipment

- a. Tractors
- b. Combines
- c. Other equipment (describe)

C. Helpers

1. Name
2. Address
3. Place of birth
4. Citizenship
5. Signature

Entering Canada at _____ Date _____

1. Name
2. Address
3. Place of birth
4. Citizenship
5. Signature

Entering Canada at _____ Date _____

1. Name
2. Address
3. Place of birth
4. Citizenship
5. Signature

Entering Canada at _____ Date _____

1. Name
2. Address
3. Place of birth
4. Citizenship
5. Signature

Entering Canada at _____ Date _____

D. Initial employer(s) in Canada

1. Name
2. Address

(Suggested Form B)

U. S. Department of Agriculture
USDA War Board

Date _____

To any Branch of a Canadian Chartered Bank:

The bearer, John Smith, a resident of the United States is in Canada as _____ accompanying
(Write in "laborer," "owner," or "lessee") harvesting machinery admitted into Canada under a special arrangement with the United States for an exchange of grain harvest workers and harvesting machinery. This form is to be retained by your Branch upon application by the bearer for the purchase of United States dollars, in an amount not to exceed his net earnings while in Canada.

The bearer enters Canada on _____ at _____.
(Date) (Port of entry)

His signature, witnessed by me, may be compared with the identification issued by the Immigration Service of the Dominion of Canada, which he should display upon request.

(Signature of State War Board Chairman)

(Address) State of origin

(Signature of bearer)

(Address)

Ports of Entry in the United States and Canada Designated for Use
Under the Arrangement for the Exchange of Harvest Machinery and Crews

(The names are arranged according to their general trans-border proximity.)

Canadian Ports

Coutts, Alta
Wild Horse, Alta
Willow Creek, Sask.
Tremon, Sask.
Monchy, Sask.
West Popular River, Sask.
East Poplar River, Sask.
Big Beaver, Sask.
Rogway, Sask.
Baubier, Sask.
Ountre, Sask.
Marienthal, Sask.

Estevan Highway, Sask.
North Portal, Sask.
Northgate, Sask.
Lyleton, Manitoba
Elmore, "
Coulter, "
Goodlands, "
Boissevain, "
Lena, "
Cartwright, "
Crystal City,
Snow Lake, Manitoba
Windygates, Manitoba
Haskett, "
Gretna, "
Emerson, "

United States Ports

Sweetgrass, Montana
Whitlash, "
Turner, "
Opheim, "
Scobey, "
Whitetail, "
Raymond, "
Westby, "
Fortuna, North Dakota
Ambrose, " "
Crosby, " "
Noonan, " "
Portal, " "
Northgate, " "
Antler, " "
Sherwood, " "
Westhope, " "
Carbury, " "
Dunsith, " "
St. John, " "
Hansboro, " "
Sarles, " "
Hannah, " "
Maida, " "
Walhalla, " "
Nechc, " "
Pembina, " "
Noyes, Minnesota
Pine Creek, "

